



Officers

Earl Hilliard
Dennis Kucinich
Cynthia McKinney
Major Owens
Bernie Sanders

Executive Committee

Danny Davis
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Nancy Pelosi
Pete Stark
Lynn Woolsey

Congressional Progressive Caucus

Rep. Peter DeFazio, Chairman

U.S. CONGRESS PROGRESSIVE CAUCUS – ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION

Section 1. Preamble

The members of the Progressive Caucus share a common belief in the principles of social and economic justice, non-discrimination, and tolerance in America and in our relationships with other countries

We also seek to embody and give voice to national priorities which reflect the interests and needs of all the American people, not just the wealthy and the powerful.

In the post-Cold War era, we believe our nation's priorities must change with the times and reflect new realities.

Section 2. Purpose

Our purpose is to present thoughtful, positive, practical solutions to the problems confronting America and the world.

Accordingly, we support curbs on wasteful , inefficient government spending at the Pentagon and elsewhere.

We support a more progressive tax system in which wealthier taxpayers and corporations pay their fair share.

We support adequate funding for social programs that are designed to extend help to low and middle-income Americans in need.

We support trade policies that increase the exports of more American products and encourage the creation of jobs and investment in America.

Section 3. Membership

All Members who support the principles of the preamble are encouraged to join.

Section 4. Organizational Meeting

At the beginning of each Congress, a general membership meeting shall be called by the chairman from the previous Congress for the purpose of electing officers and an executive committee. If the former chairman is not available, the most senior former officer of the caucus shall preside over the meeting. If any officers vacate their position before the end of a Congress, the chairman or the most senior officer shall call a general membership meeting for a new election.

Section 4a. Chairman

The chairman of the previous Congress will take nominations from the floor for chairman of the caucus. Those present at the meeting will then be given a ballot to vote for chairman. The nominee receiving the most votes will become chair of the caucus for the new Congress. The position of chairman may not be held by any member for two consecutive Congresses. It is the duty of the office of the chairman to disperse information to the caucus. Any member that has informational material that they wish to go to the caucus, should send it to the office of the chairman. This service is for informational material only. See section seven for the formal positions of the caucus.

Section 4b. Officers

The chair will then take nominees from the floor for the remaining five officers. Each member of the caucus will then be given five ballots. The five nominees receiving the most votes will be the officers for the new Congress.

Qualifications-Officers of the caucus must commit to attending all progressive caucus events and half of one staff position to the work of the caucus.

Section 4c. Executive Committee

The chair will then take nominees from the floor for the six executive committee members. Each member of the caucus will then be given six ballots. The six nominees receiving the most votes will be the executive committee of the caucus.

Qualifications-Executive Committee members must commit to attending all progressive caucus events and a quarter of one staff position to the work of the caucus.

Section 5. Meetings

The officers shall establish a regular weekly meeting time. These meetings are open to all members of the caucus.

The executive committee will meet when deemed necessary by the officers.

General membership meetings will be subject to the call of the chair. Caucus members will be given a minimum of twenty-four hours notice of general membership meetings.

Section 6. Task Forces

Task forces will be formed at the direction of a majority of the officers. Any member of the caucus may request the formation of a task force subject to approval by a majority of the officers. Each task force will be charged with developing specific legislative initiatives or other projects deemed necessary by the officers. Each task force will be chaired by an officer or a member chosen by a majority of the officers. Each task force will report frequently on the progress and projects of the task forces.

Section 7. Adopting Formal Positions on Behalf of the Caucus

After any task force has developed a legislative initiative or response to upcoming legislation, the chair of the task force shall submit the proposal to the officers for review. The officers will then submit to the entire caucus in advance any proposal that the officers decide should be considered by the caucus as a proposal or position of the caucus. The officers will then call a general membership meeting to vote on whether or not to adopt the proposal or position as an official caucus position. Adoption of an official caucus position requires sixty percent of those present voting in the affirmative. All official statements from the caucus shall be dispensed from the chairman's office.

Section 8. Press Conferences and Briefings

Occasionally, the caucus may hold a press conference or briefing in the name of the caucus. Two-thirds of the officers must approve a briefing or press conference under the name of the caucus. Any member may submit ideas and proposals to the officers for consideration.